

**SENATE—Thursday, March 1, 2001**

The Senate met at 10:01 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable GEORGE ALLEN, a Senator from the State of Virginia.

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, as we begin Women's History Month today, we thank You for the indelible impact of women on American history. Specifically, we praise You for women like Emma Willard who started the first college for women, Jarena Lee who was the first black woman to preach in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Harriet Beecher Stowe who helped abolish slavery by writing "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and Carrie Chapman Catt who tirelessly led the way for women to win the right to vote. We praise You for each of these women and the many others who have made personal sacrifices so that all women can claim their equality and freedom.

Today, Gracious God, we also give You thanks for the women who serve here in the Senate: the outstanding women Senators, the women who serve as officers, and the many women throughout the Senate family who continually glorify You in their loyalty and excellence.

Our prayer today, Gracious Lord, is that the role of women in the Senate will exemplify to the American people the importance of the leadership of women in every sector of our society.

Thank You, Gracious God. In Your Holy Name. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Honorable GEORGE ALLEN led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, March 1, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable GEORGE ALLEN, a Senator from the State of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. ALLEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

**RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

**MORNING BUSINESS**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 1 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. Under the previous order, the time until 10:15 a.m. shall be under the control of the Senator from Alaska, Mr. MURKOWSKI.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Good morning, Mr. President. Let me wish you well, and the minority whip, Senator REID.

**SCHEDULE**

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I say on behalf of the leader, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 1 p.m. with all the time allocated by unanimous consent. Following morning business, it is hoped that the Senate can begin consideration of the bankruptcy legislation. It is hoped that an agreement can be reached on its consideration prior to the end of the week. The Senate may also consider any nominations that are available for action.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION****NOMINATION OF MARK A. WEINBERGER TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY**

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, on behalf of the leadership, on the Executive Calendar, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination reported by the Finance Committee: Calendar No. 17, Mark Weinberger. I further ask unanimous consent that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, I note for the record that the Democrats were ready to move on this yesterday. There was a problem on the other side. We are most happy to move this whenever the leader feels it appropriate. Therefore, I withdraw my reservation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the nomination is confirmed.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, let me be sure the minority whip understands that this is for Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. I thank the Senator for his cooperation.

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

**ENERGY CRISIS**

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, let me take a few moments this morning to discuss the merits of the energy bill which was introduced earlier this week by a number of our colleagues. It is a bipartisan introduction by myself, Senator BREAUX, Senator LOTT, and a number of other Senators who are on the bill.

I think it is appropriate to kind of focus in on reality. We have an energy crisis in this country. It has been developing for a long time. It does not solve anything to point fingers at where the responsibility is. The bottom line is how to address it, how to resolve it, and how to get this country moving again. We are looking at the stock market, shaking our heads. We are listening to Alan Greenspan. The predictions for the economy are gloomy, and one of the causes, a significant cause, obviously, is the price of energy.

The price of energy has hit everyone in this body. If you live in Washington, DC, and you use gas, you know your gas bills have doubled. That means you have had to take a greater percentage of your disposable income to pay your gas bill. I will not go into gasoline prices which have escalated over an extended period of time. But the American public and Members of this body have an opportunity, and I think have an obligation, to come up with some positive solutions.

We would like to think that energy is bipartisan. We all have the same responsibility. We have different views on how to achieve a balance. But I think there is a basic philosophical opportunity for some self-examination